

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 13 and 43-46 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sound recording/reproducing method in a sound recording/reproducing apparatus for recording sound data onto a recording medium and reproducing said sound data from said recording medium, the method comprising:
 - an attribute information recording step of recording, onto said recording medium, attribute information on sound data of a music piece that are to be recorded onto said recording medium;
 - a rule table creation step of creating a rule table that associates the attribute information and digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters, each of the digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters being previously stored in the sound recording/reproducing apparatus and designating a sound field process or a frequency characteristic process, the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process [[being]] to be performed on a digital signal processor in a connected amplifier apparatus;
 - a DSP program parameter acquisition step of, at a time of reproduction when sound data of a music piece to be reproduced, read out from said recording medium, are to be outputted to said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus, acquiring, from said recording medium, the attribute information on the sound data of the music piece to be reproduced and acquiring, from said rule table, any of the DSP program parameters that corresponds to the attribute information;

a step of using, when a model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of said rule table and a model of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus coincide with each other, said DSP program parameter acquired from said rule table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process;

a step of using, when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of said rule table differs from the model of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus, a DSP program parameter acquired from said rule table and a DSP program parameter corresponding to said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus from a DSP program associating table that associates DSP program parameters of a plurality of amplifier apparatuses, and using said DSP program parameter acquired from said DSP program associating table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process; and

a DSP program parameter setting step of setting the DSP program parameter, after completion of the acquisition step, in said digital signal processor of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus.

2. (Original) A sound recording/reproducing method as claimed in claim 1 wherein, when a change has been made to the sound field process or frequency characteristic process of said amplifier apparatus during reproduction of the sound data of the music piece, there is performed a learning step of registering, in said rule table, a DSP program parameter indicative of the changed sound field process or frequency

characteristic process in association with the attribute information of the sound data being currently reproduced.

3. (Original) A sound recording/reproducing method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the attribute information on the sound data of the music piece includes music piece information identifying the music piece, album information identifying an album to which the music piece belongs, artist information identifying an artist of the music piece, and genre information identifying a musical genre of the music piece.

4. (Original) A sound recording/reproducing method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the attribute information on the sound data of the music piece includes compression scheme information indicative of a compression scheme with which the sound data are recorded on said recording medium.

5-12 Canceled

13. (Currently Amended) A sound recording/reproducing apparatus comprising:
a recording medium on which sound data can be recorded and reproduced;
an attribute information recording section that records, onto said recording medium, attribute information on sound data of a music piece that are to be recorded onto said recording medium;

a rule table creation section that creates a rule table that associates the attribute information, digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters and processing start times, each of the digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters being previously stored in the sound recording/reproducing apparatus and designating a sound field process or a frequency characteristic process, the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process [[being]] to be performed on a digital signal processor in a

connected amplifier apparatus, each of the processing start times designating a time when the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process is started;

a DSP program parameter acquisition section that, at a time of reproduction when sound data of a music piece to be reproduced, read out from said recording medium, are to be outputted to said amplifier apparatus which is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus, acquires, from said recording medium attribute information of sound data to be reproduced and acquires, from said rule table, any of the DSP program parameters that corresponds to the attribute information on the sound data;

a section that uses, when a model of an amplifier apparatus[[,]] that is the object of control during creation of said rule table and a model of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus coincide with each other, said DSP program parameter acquired from said rule table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process;

a DSP program associating table associating DSP program parameters of a plurality of amplifier apparatus;

a section that acquires[[.]], when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of said rule table differs from the model of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus, a DSP program parameter corresponding to said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus from said DSP program associating table, and uses said DSP program parameter acquired from said

DSP program associating table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process; and

a DSP program parameter setting section that sets the DSP program parameter, after completion of the acquisition process, in said digital signal processor of said amplifier apparatus currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus.

14. (Original) A sound recording/reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 13 which further comprises a learning section that, when a change has been made to the sound field process or frequency characteristic process of said amplifier apparatus during reproduction of the sound data of the music piece, registers, in said rule table, a DSP program parameter indicative of the changed sound field process or frequency characteristic process in association with the attribute information of the sound data being currently reproduced.

15. (Original) A sound recording/reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein the attribute information on the sound data of the music piece includes music piece information identifying the music piece, album information identifying an album to which the music piece belongs, artist information identifying an artist of the music piece, and genre information identifying a musical genre of the music piece.

16. (Original) A sound recording/reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein the attribute information on the sound data of the music piece includes compression scheme information indicative of a compression scheme with which the sound data are recorded on said recording medium.

17-42 Canceled

43. (Currently Amended) A sound recording/reproducing method in a sound recording/reproducing apparatus for recording sound data onto a recording medium and reproducing said sound data from said recording medium, the method comprising:

an attribute information recording step of recording, onto said recording medium, attribute information on sound data of a music piece that are to be recorded onto said recording medium;

a rule table creation step of creating a rule table that associates the attribute information, digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters and processing start times, each of the digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters being previously stored in the sound recording/reproducing apparatus and designating a sound field process or a frequency characteristic process, the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process [[being]] to be performed on a digital signal processor in a connected amplifier apparatus, each of the processing start times designating a time when the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process is started;

a DSP program parameter acquisition step of, at a time of reproduction when sound data of a music piece to be reproduced, read out from said recording medium, are to be outputted to said amplifier apparatus which is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus, acquiring, from said rule table, any of the DSP program parameters that corresponds to the attribute information on the sound data and corresponds to any one of the processing start times that has coincided with an elapsed reproducing time of the sound data;

a step of using, when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of said rule table and the model of said amplifier apparatus that

is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus coincide with each other, said DSP program parameter acquired from said rule table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process;

a step of acquiring, when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of said rule table differs from the model of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus, a DSP program parameter acquired from said rule table and a DSP program parameter corresponding to said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus from a DSP program associating table that associates DSP program parameters of a plurality of amplifier apparatuses, and using said DSP program parameter acquired from said DSP program associating table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process; and

a DSP program parameter setting step of setting the DSP program parameter, acquired from said rule table, in said digital signal processor of said amplifier apparatus currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein

said DSP [[Program]] program parameter setting step [[setting]] sets the DSP program parameter, after completion of the acquisition process, in said digital signal [[Processor]] processor of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus.

44. (Currently Amended) A sound recording/reproducing apparatus comprising:
a recording medium on which sound data can be recorded and reproduced;
an attribute information recording section that records, onto said recording medium, attribute information on sound data of a music piece that are to be recorded onto said recording medium;

a rule table creation section that creates a rule table that associates digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters, each of the digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters being previously stored in the sound recording/reproducing apparatus and designating a sound field process or a frequency characteristic process, the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process [[being]] to be performed on a digital signal processor in a connected amplifier apparatus;

a DSP program parameter acquisition section that, at a time of reproduction when sound data of a music piece to be reproduced, read out from said recording medium, are to be outputted to said external amplifier apparatus which is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus, acquires, from said rule table, any of the DSP program parameters that corresponds to the attribute information of sound data of a music piece to be reproduced and corresponds to a process start time which coincides with an elapsed reproducing time of the sound data;

a DSP program parameter setting section that sets the DSP program parameter, acquired from said rule table, in said digital signal processor of said amplifier apparatus which is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus;

a section that uses, when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of said rule table and the model of said amplifier apparatus

that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus coincide with each other, said DSP program parameter acquired from said rule table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process;

a DSP program associating table associating DSP program parameters of a plurality of amplifier apparatus; and

a section that acquires, when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of said rule table differs from the model of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus, a DSP program parameter acquired from said rule table and a DSP program parameter corresponding to said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus from said DSP program associating table as a DSP program parameter acquired from said DSP program associating table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process^{[[;]]}, wherein

said DSP program parameter setting section ^{[[setting]]} sets the DSP program parameter₁ after completion of the acquisition process, in said digital signal processor of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus.

45. (Currently Amended) A sound recording/reproducing method in a sound recording/reproducing apparatus for recording sound data onto a recording medium and reproducing said sound data from said recording medium, the method comprising:

an attribute information recording step of recording, onto said recording medium, attribute information on sound data of a music piece that are to be recorded onto said recording medium;

a rule table creation step of creating a rule table that associates the attribute information and digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters, each of the digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters being previously stored in the sound recording/reproducing apparatus and designating a sound field process or a frequency characteristic process, the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process [[being]] to be performed on a digital signal processor in a connected amplifier apparatus;

a DSP program parameter acquisition step of, at a time of reproduction when sound data of a music piece to be reproduced, read out from said recording medium, are to be outputted to said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus, acquiring, from said recording medium, the attribute information on the sound data of the music piece to be reproduced and acquiring, from said rule table, any of the DSP program parameters that corresponds to the attribute information;

a step of using, when a model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of said rule table and a model of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus coincide with each other, said DSP program parameter acquired from said rule table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process; and

a DSP program parameter setting step of setting the DSP program parameter, after completion of the acquisition step, in said digital signal processor of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus.

46. (Currently Amended) A sound recording/reproducing method in a sound recording/reproducing apparatus, the method comprising:

an attribute information recording step of recording, onto a recording medium, attribute information on sound data of a music piece that are to be recorded onto said recording medium;

a rule table creation section that creates a rule table that associates the attribute information, digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters and processing start times, each of the digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters being previously stored in the sound recording/reproducing apparatus and designating a sound field process or a frequency characteristic process, the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process [[being]] to be performed on a digital signal processor in a connected amplifier apparatus, each of the processing start times designating a time when the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process is started;

a DSP program parameter acquisition section step of, at a time of reproduction when sound data of a music piece to be reproduced, read out from said recording medium, are to be outputted to said amplifier apparatus, acquiring, from said recording medium, the attribute information on the sound data of the music piece to be reproduced and acquiring, from said rule table, any of the DSP program parameters that corresponds to the attribute information; and

a DSP program parameter setting step of setting the DSP program parameter, acquired from said rule table, in said digital signal processor of said amplifier apparatus.